Mishicot Sportsmen's Club first meeting drew 20 members

This is the fifth in a series of articles leading up to Manitowoc County Fish and Game Protective Association's 100th anniversary later this month.

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Manitowoc County Fish and Game

Previous articles have focused on the history of the organization. We are currently focusing on some of the individual clubs that are part of the 27 units that make up the organization, which represents more than 2,500 people in Manitowoc County.

Donna Gohr shared with us some of the documented history of the Mishicot Sportsmen's Club. Records indicate the first meeting was held at Dvorak's Shell Service Station on Jan. 17, 1945. Aredrick Blattler was the first president and

Alvin Dvorak was chosen vice president.

They have full records of their activities from that founding meeting through the present. It's wonderful to see the time and dedication shown by the secretaries and other officers of these clubs. Records help us to understand the great work that has been conducted in the county by the 27 clubs that make up Manitowoc County Fish and Game Protective Association.

The club's 1945 minutes indicate there were trees available for planting from the state. The trees cost from $2 to $5 per thousand, depending upon the type of tree. There were 20 members at the first meeting.

The name, Mishicot Sportsmen's Club, was selected in 1945 and has remained in place. Meetings of the organization featured nature and wildlife movies at some of the meetings. There also was food and refreshments and a committee was set up to take care of these needs. The group discussed helping repair and maintain the County Pheasant Pens that were already being used to stock birds in the area. They discussed having skeet and trap shooting available for members.

In the 1946 notes, we find the group donated $30 to the County Pheasant Pens to help cover the costs of repairs and the raising of birds. The group discussed joining the county organization officially and there were even plans for a rodeo as a fundraiser for the group to be held on Roger Ploecklman's land. The club's first picnic was held at Bluementhal Park and there also was a fall harvest festival. A fox hunt was attended by 30 hunters. They were asked to donate a quarter each to help cover the costs for those with dogs in the hunt.

In 1947, Mishicot was already celebrating its centennial and men were asked to grow a beard as part of the celebration. There would be a dance and a parade for the celebration in Mishicot and admission to the dance was 75 cents. The club, with help from the Boys Scouts, sold badges to support the costs of the parade at 25 cents. The scouts received a nickel for each badge sold. A group was formed to look for land to help develop a sportsmen's park. The Ploecklman and Weber property was purchased and Mishicot Sportsmen's Club filed its incorporation on Dec. 1.

Minutes of the club's annual meetings tell the story of 62 years of service to the community and sporting men and women. The club's proud history will be recognized as Manitowoc County Fish and Game celebrates its 100th anniversary at the Viking Bow and Gun Club on Friday, Sept. 28.

To learn more about the clubs, visit www.manitowoccountyfishandgame.org.

Dean Halverson is secretary-treasurer of the Manitowoc Unit of the Manitowoc Fish and Game Protective Association. He also is a member of the 100th Anniversary Committee.